

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 1F, 1H and 1B have been amended as requested by the Examiner. More particularly, the reference characters "A" and "B" were aligned and " in Fig. 1F and added to Fig. 1H. Further, the reference character "D" was deleted in Fig. 1B.

Attachment: One replacement drawings' sheet, Figs. 1A-1H.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is respectfully requested.

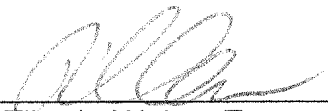
Claims 1-3, 6,8, 11-13. 15, 20, 25 and 26 stand rejected as being anticipated by Ito. The Applicant respectfully traverse these rejections. As explained in the previous submission, the Applicants disagree with the Examiner's interpretation that Ito's disc has two sides from which data is read without stopping the disc. Instead, a fair and accurate reading of the reference leads the Applicants to believe that in Ito, data layers are formed on only one side, and therefore data can be READ only from one side. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, the claims have been amended to recite more clearly that the disk has two opposite sides or faces through which data is read.

A further distinction between the present invention (as presented in some of the claims such as 22 and 25) is that the data is read either using a single laser that is switched from one side to the other, or with two laser heads, one disposed along each side. O'Hara teaches away from either configuration. Instead, O'Hara uses a single laser head and a system of beam-splitters and mirrors to direct the laser at the two sides of a disc. Thus, O'Hara fails to teach switching a laser head from one side to the other. Moreover, O'Hara explicitly teaches away from the two-headed configuration by arguing that such an arrangement is undesirable.

In summary, the references cited do not teach the claimed invention and therefore the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted
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